

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 615

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0090

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, CA

SUBJECT: GOQ BREAKS OFF NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MONTREAL 510 QUEBEC 78 AND PREVIOUS

1. QUEBEC PUBLIC SERVICE MINISTER OSWALD PARENT ANNOUNCED TODAY, IN RESPONSE TO ILLEGAL WALKOUT BY COMMON FRONT, GOQ S INTENTION SUSPEND ALL NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. IN ADDITION, JUSTICE MINISTER GERARD LEVESQUE HAS ORDERED ACTION TAKEN AGAINST STRIKING TEACHERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROVISIONS OF BILL 23, RECENTLY PASSED BACK-TO-WORK LEGISLATION. TEACHERS UNIONS ARE ALREADY FACING STIFF PENALTIES UNDER THIS LAW FOR ILLEGAL APRIL 13 STRIKE.

2. TEACHERS BROKE OFF NEGOTIATIONS APRIL 7 IN RESPONSE TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF BACK-TO-WORK LEGISLATION. HOWEVER, TALKS HAD RECENTLY PARTIALLY RESUMED WITH EFFORTS LIFT LOCKOUTS IMPOSED BY SOME SCHOOL COMMISSIONS. TEACHERS HAD DEMANDED ENDING ALL SUCH MANAGEMENT TACTICS AS PRECONDITION TO SERIOUS CONTRACT BARGAINING. IMPATIENCE OF TEACHERS WITH WHAT THEY VIEW AS GOVERNMENT FOOTDRAGGING LED TO TODAY S MASSIVE WALKOUT.

3. IN ANNOUNCING SUSPENSION MINISTER PARENT ACCUSED CEQ (TEACHERS UNION) OF CONTINUALLY SETTING PRECONDITIONS WHICH PREVENTED SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADDED THAT, IN THE FUTURE, IT MAY BE THE GOVT WHO WOULD SET PRECONDITIONS.

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RM BOURASSA THIS AFTERNOON, IN UNCHARACTERIATICALLY EMOTIONAL

ADDRESS OPENING PROVINCIAL LIBERAL CONGRESS, CONDEMNED COMMON
FRONT IRRESPONSIBILITY, SAID GOQ WOULD NOT BE BLACKMAILED
BUT WOULD DEFEND PEOPLES INTERESTS, AND CALLED ON COMMON
FRONT TO DROP OPEN QUOTES POLITICAL OBJECTIVES CLOSE QUOTES
AND RESUME NEGOTIATION IN GOOD FAITH. MCNAMARA

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